

2000

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State University of New York College at Cortland

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Newsletter

Vol. 6, No. 1
Winter 2000

Modi Wins Third National Uneven Bars Title; SUNYAC Titles, NCAA Bids for Hoop Teams

Senior Sulekha Modi of Queens earned her third national uneven bars title in four years at the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) Division III Championships in late March at Springfield (Mass.) College.

Modi won the event with a two-day score of 19.15, a tenth of a point shy of her own meet record. She concludes her collegiate gymnastics career with six All-America honors, including uneven bars titles in 1997 and 1998, second place in 1999, fifth place on balance beam in 1997 and fourth place this season in the all-around competition.

Freshman Carrie Costello of Cohoes, N.Y., became an All-American on balance beam with her fourth-place national finish. Remarkably, she missed over half the season due to injury and competing on the beam only once prior to nationals.

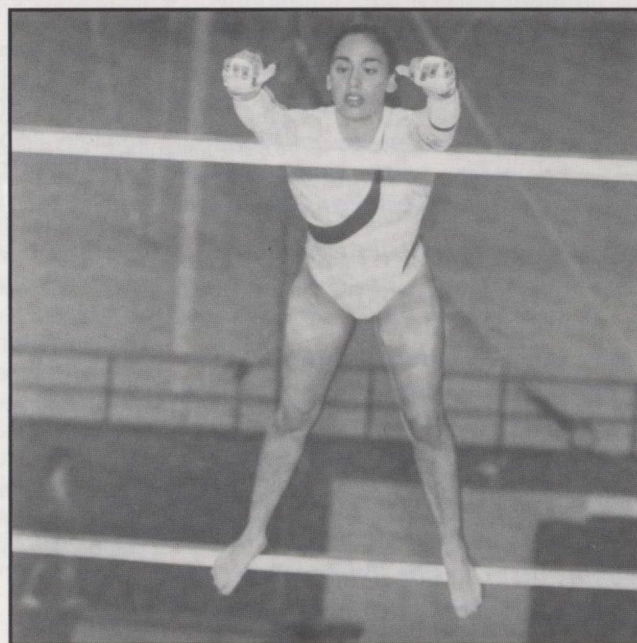
Modi and senior Elizabeth Beach of Hamburg, N.Y., were two of 22 student-athletes named to the NCGA Division III Academic Team. Modi is a recreation and leisure studies major with a 3.13 cumulative grade point average while Beach is an elementary and early secondary education major with a 3.01 GPA.

Second-year head coach Gary Babjack's squad finished fifth at the national meet. Two weeks earlier, the Red Dragons placed fourth at the ECAC Championships, missing third place by only two-tenths of a point.

"Sweet" Repeat for Men's Basketball

With all five starters returning from its 1999 NCAA "Sweet 16" team, the Cortland men's basketball team faced high pre-season expectations. The Red Dragons opened with a 6-4 record before regrouping to win 18 straight games on their way to the most successful season in school history.

The National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) East District Coach of the Year for the second straight season, fifth-year head coach Tom Spanbauer '83 led his troops to a 24-5 record, eclipsing last year's school-record 23 victories. The Red Dragons won the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) regular-season title for the second straight year. Cortland then earned a berth in the NCAA Division III playoffs and its first overall conference title since 1969 with three straight wins at the SUNYAC Tournament in Utica, N.Y.



Sulekha Modi won NCGA Division III uneven bars titles in 1997, 1999 and 2000. She completed her collegiate gymnastics career with six All-America honors. (Photo by Denise L. Weldon)

The top seed in the NCAA Division III East Region, the Red Dragons received a bye in the first round of the 48-team national tournament. Cortland hosted Hamilton College in the second round and outlasted the Continentals 60-55 in front of nearly 1,000 fans at Corey Gymnasium. Making their second straight "Sweet 16" appearance, the Red Dragons were chosen to host the four-team East/Northeast sectional which would determine one of the Division III "Final Four" squads. In another hard-fought contest, Cortland's season came to a close with a 58-52 setback to Penn State Behrend.

Junior guard and tri-captain Tom Williams of Commack, N.Y., became the first player in school history to earn first team All-America honors with his selection by the NABC. He was also named the SUNYAC "Player of the Year" and was a first team All-ECAC Upstate New York selection. Williams led a balanced Cortland offense with 14.9 points per game. He was second on the team with 65 assists and 50 steals.

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Message from the C-Club Director

Dear C-Club Members:

This is an exciting time for SUNY Cortland Athletics. We've enjoyed another successful year thus far as numerous teams have earned national honors.



Among our notable accomplishments have been a Final Four appearance for our field hockey team and a third national uneven bars championship for gymnast Sulekha Modi. Both our men's and women's basketball teams won SUNYAC titles and hosted NCAA playoff games. Our women's volleyball team remained among the nation's best programs, while our women's tennis team sent two players to the ITA nationals in Tennessee.

On May 3, we will be holding an official groundbreaking ceremony at our new stadium complex. Some construction has already begun, with the work scheduled to continue for the next two years. When completed in 2002, the stadium will be one of the best Division III has to offer. This first major facility constructed on our campus since the Park Center in 1973 has the campus and the community excited. We look forward to hosting local, regional and national events in the years to come.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank Dee Bogard for her 30 years of dedication and support to the Cortland athletic program. Our associate athletic director and senior women's administrator, Dee retired this past December.

Lee Roberts
C-Club Director
Cortland Director of Athletics

C-Club Notebook

Cortland Football Joins New Jersey Athletic Conference

SUNY Cortland officially became a football-playing member of the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) for the 2000 season. Cortland provides the NJAC with the seventh team needed for a conference champion automatic bid to the NCAA Division III playoffs. The NJAC boasts 1999 national runnerup Rowan University, national quarterfinalist Montclair State University, William Paterson University, Kean University, New Jersey City University and The College of New Jersey.

Cortland, which competes in the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) in other sports, will be the only non-New Jersey institution in the NJAC and the conference's first-ever affiliate member. The Red Dragons have never been aligned in a football league in the past. Last fall, Cortland posted a 3-2 record against all teams in the NJAC except The College of New Jersey.

"We are pleased to add Cortland to our ranks," said Art Eason, the athletic director at William Paterson and the chairman of the NJAC football committee. "They strengthen our ability to schedule a full slate of opponents and they also assure us of an automatic qualifier bid to the NCAA tournament in the fall of 2000."

In 1999, the NCAA expanded its Division III tournament from 16 to 28 teams and began awarding automatic berths to qualified conferences with at least seven members.

Cortland's tentative 10-game regular-season 2000 schedule retains dates with long-time intrastate opponents Ithaca, Buffalo State and Brockport. In addition to the six NJAC contests, Cortland will also continue its series with Springfield College of Massachusetts.

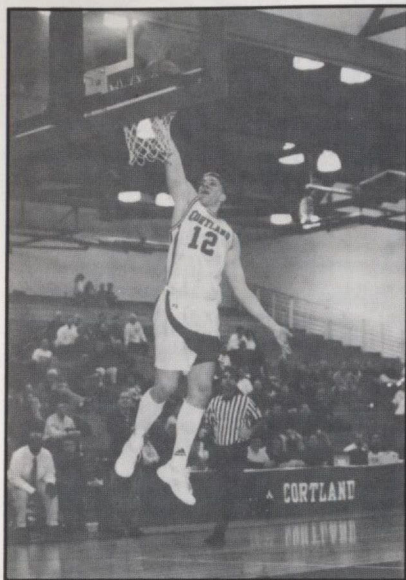
"We look forward to the very strong competition that is experienced within the New Jersey Athletic Conference," said Cortland President Dr. Judson H. Taylor. "It represents the very best at the national level."

Here and There...

- ✓ The athletic fields at Alexandria Central School were dedicated last fall to **George A. Brown '33**, a former physical education teacher, athletic director and coach in the school district. Brown was inducted into the C-Club Hall of Fame in 1973 and that same year joined the College's physical education staff. He helped open the Alumni Ice Arena and coached the Red Dragon ice hockey team to a 29-6-1 record from 1973-76. Brown passed away in 1990.
- ✓ Former Cortland national cross country and track champion **Michelle LaFleur '95** is still enjoying a successful running career. Last November she finished second at the Avon Running National Championship in Cincinnati and won a trip to Milan, Italy, to compete in the Avon Running Global Women's Championship on May 21. In February, LaFleur finished 18th out of 141 marathon runners at the U.S. Olympic Trials in Columbia, S.C.
- ✓ **Dr. Gail F. Maloney '72**, a 1998 C-Club Hall of Fame Inductee, has been appointed as senior associate athletics director at Buffalo State. In accepting the position, Maloney will relinquish her role as the Lady Bengals' head women's basketball coach. In 21 years, her teams posted a combined 374-154 record, won seven SUNYAC titles and earned seven AIAW or NCAA post-season berths.

Winter Recap (continued from page 1)

Junior guard and tri-captain Adam Blauweiss of Old Westbury, N.Y., and sophomore point guard Caston Binger of Niagara Falls, N.Y., were both chosen as honorable mention SUNYAC all-stars. Cortland loses only one senior from this year's squad — forward Steve Crews of Berkshire, N.Y., who was a member of three Red Dragon NCAA qualifiers in his four seasons.



Tom Williams became the first Cortland men's basketball player to earn first team Division III All-America honors. He was also named the SUNYAC Men's Basketball Player of the Year and was a first team ECAC Upstate New York all-star. A team tri-captain, he helped the Red Dragons finish with a school-best 24-5 record and make their second straight trip to the NCAA Division III "Sweet 16".
(Photo by Darl Zehr Photography)

Women's Basketball Sets School Record For Wins

Cortland maintained its status as one of the region's top women's basketball teams with a school-best 26-2 record during the 1999-2000 campaign. Second-year head coach Jeannette Yeoman's program, a combined 51-5 over the past two years, repeated as both SUNYAC regular-season and tournament champion. The Red Dragons received a bye into the NCAA Division III tournament second round for the second straight season.

The Red Dragons rolled from the start this winter, winning their first 22 games and moving as high as third in the national polls. Although a late-season loss at Brockport prevented a perfect regular season, Cortland regrouped and won its three SUNYAC playoff games by an average margin of 17 points per game.

Unfortunately, the season came to a close in similar fashion to the previous year with a loss in the second round of the NCAA playoffs. Last year's loss came against William Smith. This year, the culprit was St. John Fisher, which handed the Red Dragons a 65-60 setback.

Junior center Kate Smith of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., was the Red Dragons' leader this winter with 13.0 points and 9.2 rebounds per game. She was also fifth in the nation with 3.8 blocked shots per game. Smith was named to the SUNYAC, ECAC Upstate New York and New York State Women's Collegiate Athletic Association all-star teams.

Senior guard and tri-captain Kristie Meyer of Norwich, N.Y., was a first team SUNYAC all-star and honorable mention ECAC selection. Sophomore guard/forward Erin Egan of Oyster Bay, N.Y. — whose

sister Lauren was a senior tri-captain — earned second team All-SUNYAC honors and senior tri-captain Shonna Sargent of Parish, N.Y., was an honorable mention All-SUNYAC selection. Yeoman was named the co-SUNYAC Coach of the Year.

Meyer finished her career third on Cortland's career scoring list with 1,275 points, while Sargent finished fifth with 1,197 points.

Improved Hockey Squad Sets School Defensive Record

After winning just five games combined over the previous two seasons, the Cortland ice hockey team rebounded during the 1999-2000 season. The Red Dragons finished 9-12-3 and battled for a SUNYAC playoff spot until being eliminated on the final day of the regular season.

Third-year head coach Tim Vanini's club turned in the best defensive season in school history. Cortland recorded a 3.60 goals-against average despite a roster filled with first-year defensive starters. Freshman goaltender John Larnerd of Upper Darby, Pa., finished the season with a 3.78 goals-against average, an .898 save percentage and one shutout. He earned second team All-SUNYAC honors.

Cortland opened the season in impressive fashion by defeating defending NCAA Division II champion St. Michael's (Vt.) and eventual NCAA Division III playoff qualifier Wentworth Institute (Mass.) to capture first place at the Potsdam Pepsi Invitational. Wins over Hobart and Buffalo State, along with a 6-4 upset victory at SUNYAC finalist Potsdam, pushed the Red Dragons' record to 5-1.

The season featured five overtime contests which resulted in three ties and two losses. The Red Dragons finished tied for the sixth and final SUNYAC playoff spot, but missed the playoffs on a tiebreaker.

Senior forward Andy McGowan of Grand Island, N.Y., led the team in scoring with 24 points, including a team-best 18 assists. Junior forward Greg Menchen of Hawthorne, N.Y., recorded a team-high 14 goals and was second on the club with 23 points. Senior captain Jay Bartle was selected to compete in the Eastern College Division Senior All-Star Game in Plattsburgh where he had a goal and an assist in the West's 13-8 win over the East.

Women's Indoor Track and Field: Best in SUNYAC

The Cortland women's indoor track and field team, led by first-year head coach Jennifer Potter, won its fourth consecutive SUNYAC title and capped its season with a 24th-place finish at the NCAA Division III Championships in Bloomington, Ill.

The Red Dragons earned All-America honors in four events at the national meet. Sophomore Cheryl Smith of Kirkwood, N.Y., was fourth in the 5,000 meters (17:21.45). Senior Mickey Kelly of Chatham, N.Y., placed sixth in the 1,500 meters (4:39.86). In addition, the 4 x 400-meter relay team of junior Hope Papworth of Liverpool, N.Y., freshman Stephanie Bailey of Victor, N.Y., sophomore Sarah Speicher of Wappingers Falls, N.Y., and sophomore Jenn White of Rochester, N.Y., finished fifth (3:56.25).

At the SUNYAC meet, White won the 400 meters in 59.26 seconds and the 55-meter hurdles in 8.74 seconds. Kelly won both the 1,000 meters (3:02.92) and 1,500 meters (4:44.44) and Smith was victorious in the 3,000 meters (10:15.51) and the 5,000 meters (17:22.84).

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Also winning league titles were: senior Ali Meier of Coxsackie, N.Y., in the high jump (4' 11.75"); freshman Martinia Heath of Beacon, N.Y., in the long jump (17' 10.75"); the 4 x 400-meter relay team of Bailey, senior Karen LaMora of Waddington, N.Y., Papworth and White (4:02.88) and the 4 x 800-meter relay squad of Speicher, sophomore Arien Baker of Lake Placid, N.Y., freshman Amanda Gillette of Marathon, N.Y., and Kelly (9:44.52). Smith was the ECAC Division III champion in the 5,000 meters (17:21.54). Potter was chosen as the Atlantic Region Coach of the Year.

Three Red Dragons Earn SUNYAC Men's Track Titles

Sophomore Josh Cross of Forestville, N.Y., senior Dan Courtney of Hamburg, N.Y., and sophomore Jason Brocious of West Monroe, N.Y., all captured individual titles at the SUNYAC Men's Indoor Track and Field Championships, which were held in February at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, N.Y.

Cross won the 55-meter dash in 6.56 seconds, Courtney was the 1,500-meter league champion in 3:58.56 and Brocious cleared 13' 11.75" to win the pole vault. Their performances helped head coach Jack Daniels' squad finish fourth in the eight-team competition.

Among the Red Dragons' highlights at the ECAC Division III Championships was a third place finish in the shot put at the ECAC Division III Championships by junior Mike Tavani of Troy, N.Y. His distance of 50' 1.25" is the first 50-foot effort by a Cortland athlete since 1984 and his personal best by over a foot-and-a-half.

Men's Swimming and Diving Second in Conference

The Cortland men's swimming and diving team, guided by fifth-year head coach Ryan Kendrick '94, concluded a successful season with an 8-7 dual-meet record and a second place finish at the eight-team SUNYAC Championships in Buffalo.

Junior Derek Yacono of Rochester, N.Y., won the 100-yard breaststroke (58.92) and the 200-yard breaststroke (2:11.94) and junior Ryan Warren of Horseheads, N.Y., won the 200-yard individual medley crown (1:58.11) at the SUNYAC meet. Yacono and Warren were also part of two winning relays. They teamed with senior Matt Moore of Frewsburg, N.Y., and sophomore Todd Muldner of Endicott, N.Y., to win the 400-yard medley relay (3:35.81) and combined with Moore and sophomore Adam Musso of Weedsport, N.Y., to win the 400-yard freestyle relay (3:23.36).

In his three years with the Red Dragons, Warren has won six SUNYAC titles. He also won an ECAC title this season in the 200-yard individual medley (1:58.24), leading Cortland to fourth place.

Garrity, Gregory Star for Women's Swimming and Diving

Freshman Kelly Garrity of Montgomery, N.Y., and sophomore Kathryn Gregory of Lancaster, N.Y., each won an individual championship and comprised half of a winning relay entry at the SUNYAC Swimming and Diving Championships in February. Fifth-year head coach Ryan Kendrick '94 led the Red Dragons to third place in the nine-school meet, held at Erie Community College's Flickinger Aquatic Center.

Garrity won the 100-yard butterfly in a school-record 59.76 seconds and Garrity won the 100-yard backstroke (1:02.12). They joined with freshmen April Parrotte of Johnson City, N.Y., and Katherine Becker of Deer Park, N.Y., to win the 200-yard medley relay (1:53.56). Cortland finished the season with a 4-4 dual meet record.

SUNY Cortland to Co-Host Empire State Games in 2002

The 25th Annual Empire State Games in 2002 will be co-hosted by SUNY Cortland, Syracuse University and Le Moyne College, Gov. George Pataki announced during a press conference at the Carrier Dome on Feb. 11.

While the College campus will host the swimming events for this summer's 2000 Empire State Games in Binghamton, the 2002 Games mark SUNY Cortland's first time as an official



site. During the press conference, both Gov. Pataki and New York State Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro singled out and thanked SUNY Cortland for its participation.

President Judson Taylor attended the event. Other dignitaries on hand included: former Gov. Hugh Carey, who started the Games in 1978; Syracuse Mayor Roy Bemardi; Syracuse University Chancellor Kenneth Shaw; Congressman James Walsh; Assemblyman Gary Finch; and former Empire State Games competitor and Syracuse University basketball star Dwayne "Pearl" Washington.

"Empire State Games participants will be amazed by and appreciative of SUNY Cortland's outstanding athletic facilities," said President Taylor. "We thank Gov. Pataki for his support of a new athletic complex on campus and for the opportunity to co-host these 2002 Games, which will allow us to showcase our facilities, our College, and our dynamic community."

Syracuse will be the home base for the 2002 Games which will run from July 31 to Aug. 4. The 6,000 participants in 28 sports are divided by age groups into six different New York regional teams — Western, Central, Adirondack, Hudson Valley, New York City and Long Island. No decision has been made yet regarding the specific sports which will take place at SUNY Cortland. Competitors will stay in the College's residence halls.

Generally, the five-day annual competition generates \$8 million in revenue for the host city and attracts more than 15,000 visitors.

Young Wrestling Squad Shows Promise

The Cortland wrestling team, featuring a new head coach, started only one senior and struggled with a 5-17 dual-match record, but still enjoyed some success throughout the winter.

Former Red Dragon wrestler and assistant coach Joel Ferrara '96 took over the head coaching duties in December when 16-year mentor Gene Nighman accepted an administrative position at Cornell University, his alma mater.

The Red Dragons won the RIT Invitational and had five wrestlers, all underclassmen, earn all-state honors at the all-division New York State Championships. Sophomore Ron Serrano of Levittown, N.Y., finished sixth at 149 pounds, junior Jacob Roe of Whitney Point, N.Y., was sixth at 165 pounds and sophomore Tony Stewart of Niskayuna, N.Y., placed sixth at 174 pounds. Freshmen Jeff Ferrara of Sidney, N.Y. — Joel's brother — and Brian Hanselman of Amherst, N.Y. finished eighth at 125 pounds and 157 pounds, respectively.

Roe led the team with a 22-8 record before suffering a late-season injury which kept him from competing in the Empire Conference NCAA Division III qualifiers. Senior Joe Boxer of Bedford, N.Y., had 19 wins at 133 pounds this winter and finished 10th in school history with 75 career victories.

Fall Season Features NCAA Trips for Red Dragon Volleyball, Field Hockey and Women's Cross Country

A persistent approach in field hockey, the perennially potent legwork of the women's cross country team and another formidable volleyball performance fueled a Cortland march into the new millennium in a familiar pose — nationally ranked! The field hockey squad, women's harriers and the volleyball program wound up in the top 10 nationally of their respective sports.

For the fifth time in seven years, Red Dragons' field hockey reached the NCAA Division III Final Four and finished tied for third. Cortland captured titles in 1993 and 1994, was second in 1997 and third in 1996. Led by freshman Julie Gentner of Williamsville, N.Y., a 14-5 record was the latest edition's success story.

Women's cross country stepped into the limelight again with a ninth place national finish in Wisconsin. It marked the college's 15th straight top 10 placement. That was testimony enough for head coach Jack Daniels' selection as the sport's Division III women's Coach of the Century by the NCAA. Sophomore Cheryl Smith of Kirkwood, N.Y., the individual national champion in 1998, ran third last fall and senior Mickey Kelly of Chatham, N.Y., was fourth.

Consistency remained a volleyball hallmark as Cortland's 35-7 squad grabbed a share of ninth place in the NCAA playoffs while making their 14th appearance in 15 years on the national scene. Kate Hachadourian of Hillsdale, N.J., achieved first team All-American honors and Therese Schlesiger of Binghamton, N.Y., emerged as a second team pick.

Field Hockey Advances to 'Final Four'

Kelly McMahon, a senior from Amagansett, N.Y., took care of business in the backfield in first team All-American style and the first-year forward play of Gentner — 12 goals and seven assists — was of particular note in Cortland's ascension. The precocious Gentner was a third team All-American among the National Coaches' Association selections.

Despite wearing an inviting No. 1-ranked national bull's-eye on their sleeves early in the season, the Red Dragons carried themselves with considerable resolve. They opened with nine straight wins.

Qualifying for the NCAA tournament, Cortland moved along and needed to sidestep favored quarterfinal host Lebanon Valley to reach the Final Four. Mission accomplished, though it took two overtimes and penalty strokes to settle the issue. Sophomore goalkeeper Becky Gillette of Marathon, N.Y. — the sister of cross country runner Amanda — came up big in the save department with 11, including a crucial stop on an overtime breakaway by the hosts. A semifinal loss to Amherst of Massachusetts drew the curtain on the Cortland season.

All-North Atlantic Region first team honors came the way of Gentner, McMahon, senior forward Jocelyn Dubach of Morrisville, N.Y., and freshman midfielder/back Kelly Washburn of Rome, N.Y. Making second team were midfielders Tori Brown, a junior from Liverpool, N.Y., and Erin Ryder, a sophomore from Hopewell Junction, N.Y. As a reward for her season-long contributions, McMahon was picked for the Division III North-South Senior All-Star Game. She also landed a berth on the NCAA Division III All-Tournament Team.



Jocelyn Dubach was selected as a first team All-North Atlantic Region forward by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association. A sociology major with a 3.76 overall grade point average, she was also chosen as a first team GTE District I At-Large Fall/Winter Academic All-American. (Photo by Darl Zehr Photography)

Women's Cross Country Continues Strong National Run

Ushering out the final decade of the century just as it began the 1990s — in whirlwind fashion, Cortland rode the All-American strides of Smith and Kelly to rank high among the 24 teams at nationals. Smith covered the championship 5,000 meters in 17:08. The three-time All-American Kelly, the only senior on the Red Dragons' seven-member national contingent, was timed in 17:10.

The other Cortland runners on the national scene were freshman Amanda Gillette of Marathon, N.Y., who finished 111th; freshman Erin Dinan of Waterloo, N.Y., 134th; sophomore Arien Baker of Lake Placid, N.Y., 154th, freshman Liz Ackley of Keene, N.H., 161st and junior Theresa Garofalo of Cicero, N.Y., 176th.

A resilient Cortland squad qualified for a return trip to the NCAA Championships by claiming the fourth and final slot for advancing at the 29-team Atlantic Regional. The Red Dragons relegated Plattsburgh, whose team by one point ended Cortland's 15-year SUNYAC title streak only weeks earlier, to fifth place.

Smith's terrific season also saw her conquer the regional qualifying field, in addition to besting the SUNYAC Championships entries by more than a minute at Cortland. Victories for Smith, who was Atlantic Region Athlete of the Year, also came in invitationals at Oswego and Honolulu, Hawaii. Kelly captured first place at the Albany Invitational.

Women's Volleyball Finishes Ninth Nationally

A 14th-in-a-row State University of New York Athletic Conference East crown and a fourth consecutive overall league championship helped carry Cortland into the NCAA tournament with apparent

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Fall Recap (continued from page 5)

impetus to climb to new heights. That was quite the lofty goal considering its fifth place finish in the country the previous year.

Led by seniors Hachadourian and Schlesiger and their efforts that were so prominent in a 35-win season, the Red Dragons had the look of an unstoppable juggernaut in NCAA regional play at home. One game away from advancing, Cortland came up short and saw its 62-match winning skein against Division III state opposition ended.

Individual honors helped soothe the wounds. All-American middle hitters Hachadourian and Schlesiger added All-New York Region laurels which also went teammates Joslyn Roden, a senior setter from Apalachin, N.Y., and Christine Widing, a junior outside hitter from North Babylon, N.Y. Captains Hachadourian, Roden and Schlesiger were first team All-SUNYAC. Hachadourian joined Roden and Widing as SUNYAC All-Tournament selections.

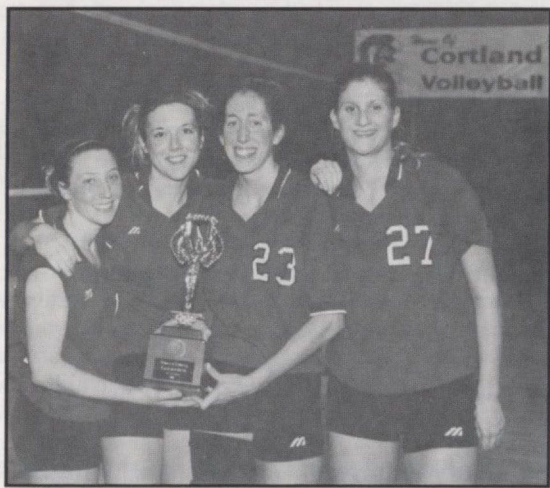
Joan Sitterly, completing her 17th year as the architect of the court wizards, was SUNYAC Coach of the Year.

Janese, Grosso Earn Tennis All-America Honors

Underclassmen Kristin Janese and Kristin Grosso provided extraordinary racket for a Red Dragons' team that won 10 of 11 dual matches and was the leader for the second time in three years among the 10 SUNYAC schools.

In the Rolex ITA Northeast Regional, the sophomore Janese of Niagara Falls, N.Y., won the singles title and partnered with the freshman Grosso of Deer Park, N.Y., for first place. Advancing to the Division III Small College National Championships in Memphis, Tenn., Janese and Grosso grabbed fourth place in doubles and Janese was sixth in singles. They are the first-ever Red Dragon tennis players to earn ITA All-America honors.

In the league tournament, Janese towered over the opposing SUNYAC first singles field and won the first doubles title with Grosso, who also claimed third singles honors. Freshman Shannon Kavanagh of Pittsford, N.Y., won a league title at second singles and teamed with freshman Gabrielle Somma of Brooklyn, N.Y., to win at second doubles.



Cortland volleyball captains (left to right) Joslyn Roden, Katrina Heath, Kate Hachadourian and Therese Schlesiger celebrate the Red Dragons' fourth straight State University of New York Athletic Conference title. (Photo by Darl Zehr Photography)

The mettle shown by Janese established Cortland season records for singles victories with a 24-3 record and doubles conquests with a 22-4 mark. The renown player wound up second among state association singles and doubles entries. Janese was a first team All-New York State singles selection and joined Grosso as a first team all-state doubles pairing.

The rookie work of Kavanagh included an 11-3 second singles mark and a 10-4 doubles mark. Grosso compiled an 11-5 record while stationed mostly at third singles. Her overall doubles record was a flashy 19-6.

Third Straight NCAA Showing for Men's Cross Country

It was a third consecutive ride taken to the NCAA Division III Championships for Cortland harriers, whose Jerimie Slick of Rochester, N.Y. — an All-American as a freshman — was a team pacesetter 60th. Senior Dan Courtney of Hamburg, N.Y., wound up 76th in the late November 8,000-meter race in Wisconsin.

Quite the 'Slick' showing came in the NCAA Atlantic Regional. The Red Dragon sophomore's first place 25:04 against 208 overall competitors keyed a Cortland team second place performance that assured the team a trip to nationals. Slick was saluted as Atlantic Region Athlete of the Year. Regionals also produced a seventh place by senior Mike Heitzenrater of Lockport, N.Y., and 13th place by Courtney.

At the SUNYAC Championships in Cortland, Heitzenrater's win spearheaded the hosts' 10th team title in meet history and second straight. Slick came in third, Courtney was fourth and senior Connaire Foran of Greene, N.Y., fifth and Daniels was named the league's Coach of the Year. Heitzenrater and Slick were second and third, respectively, in Cortland's first place finish at the Hawaii Invitational.

Cortaca Jug Victory Highlights Gridiron Campaign

Victories were registered in three of the football team's last four games to help the Red Dragons achieve a break-even 5-5 season. Five of Cortland's opponents went on to post-season competition, including four NCAA squads.

Over its successful closing stretch was Cortland's 26-21 halting of Ithaca College by escaping a 14-point halftime hole in Ithaca. Senior cornerback Ben Faery of Wilson, N.Y., made a diving interception deep in his own territory in the closing moments to seal the outcome. Cortland has won three of the last four games in the Cortaca Jug rivalry. A crowd approaching 10,200 viewed the most recent matchup.

Senior quarterback Jeff Humble of Laflin, Pa., applied an exclamation point to his Cortland career by passing for 2,366 yards, just six shy of the single-season school record. Classmate Brian Girardi of Pearl River, N.Y., capped a 123-catch career with 51 for 916 yards in 1999.

The Red Dragons' assault brigade was inspired by senior first team offensive line all-stars Sean Good of Windsor, N.Y., and Chris Brown of Chittenango, N.Y. Good's stellar play at tackle got the attention of the ECAC Upstate voters, while Brown, a team captain, was hailed as a first team Football Gazette All-East Region center. He was third team in 1998. The Football Gazette also inserted Good on the second team for the second year in a row, and touted Girardi and senior defensive end Russ Alger of Boonville, N.Y., as third team selections. Alger was second team last season.

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Among those participating in the First C-Club Classic Teams Reunion in the Park Center were, left to right: Chuck Winters, coach of the 1973 and 1975 Red Dragon national championship squads; Jud Smith '77, an All-American attackman in 1975; and Pete Graham '74, Cortland's All-American goalie on the 1973 team. (Photo by Darl Zehr Photography)

Lacrosse Champs Honored at First Classic Teams Reunion

The Cortland C-Club, in conjunction with the Office of Alumni Affairs, sponsored the first-ever Cortland Classic Teams Reunion in October. The national championship team members from the Cortland 1973 and 1975 men's lacrosse squads reunited in the Park Center on the night before Saturday's Hall of Fame Banquet.

President Judson Taylor and Athletics Director Lee Roberts spoke, along with two former Red Dragon men's lacrosse coaches - Bill Tomik '50, a Hall of Fame member and professor emeritus, and former coach Chuck Winters, now athletics director at Gettysburg College. Players and coaches were presented with caps and special plaques commemorating their championships seasons.

1960 Men's Soccer, 1980 Women's Soccer Will Be Featured at October Reunion

The Second Annual Classic Teams Reunion will honor the 1960 men's soccer team, the first Cortland participant in an NCAA tournament, and the 1980 women's soccer team, which defeated UCLA for the first-ever collegiate women's soccer national title. The event is set for Hall of Fame Weekend on Oct. 20-21, 2000.

Many events will be planned around a full contingent of college athletic contests. The weekend will also be an opportunity for any and all former Red Dragon and Red Mule soccer players to return as part of an overall soccer reunion. More information on this weekend and as well as the classic team event will be sent out by the Alumni Office.

Fall Recap (continued from page 6)

Women's Soccer Falls Short of Return NCAA Trip

Cortland narrowly missed returning to the NCAA tournament. The 14-4-2 Red Dragons failed to receive an at-large opening after being nipped 1-0 by host Oneonta in the SUNYAC championship game which determined the league's automatic tournament berth.

Cortland took an 8-1-1 league record into the SUNYAC playoffs where the determined Red Dragons downed Oswego in an overtime semifinal contest. A goal by second team All-SUNYAC selection Amy Berry, a senior from Black River, N.Y., kept Cortland chances alive.

Julie Gick, a midfielder from East Islip, N.Y., gave credence to her second team Northeast Region recognition by turning in a steady senior season. The leading point-maker with nine goals and seven assists, the spotlight was particularly hers in a three-goal spree against Oswego and in striking the game's only goal against nationally-ranked William Smith.

Former first team All-American Gick was first team All-SUNYAC for the third straight year. Senior frontline runningmate Holli Mulholland of Plattsburgh, N.Y., was a first team repeater. The league's first-year player of the year was also a Red Dragon, freshman midfielder Cassie Knudsen of Baldwinsville, N.Y.

The third team All-Northeast Region Mulholland had nine goals including four game-winners. The regional honors committee also distinguished the work of senior goalkeeper Toni Bader of Greenville, N.Y., with second team recognition.

Men's Soccer Quick Start Dampened by Late Slide

While September was memorable with six victories in eight games to launch the campaign, October presented more of a slippery slope for Cortland's men's soccer team. The overall 9-8 record, however, meant Cortland had its first winning season in three years after narrowly missing that plateau twice. The Red Dragons remained in contention for post-season action until late into the campaign.

As the team's durable backbone at midfield, junior Tony Stenta of Endwell, N.Y., landed a third team All-Northeast Region berth. He booted five goals, three of them game-winners. Stenta, who added five assists, was voted first team All-SUNYAC for the second straight year.

Senior forward Brian Thomas of Chittenango, N.Y., a repeat second team All-SUNYAC selection, also netted five scores along with Rochester, N.Y., junior Dan Connell.

Women's Golf Enjoys Solid Season

Junior Meg Dobbins of Alexandria Bay, N.Y., was medalist in first place team invitational finishes at their home Cortland Country Club and at Brockport as the Red Dragons for the second consecutive fall enjoyed considerable success. They also prevailed at the Colgate Invitational where Laura Prestopnik's fourth-place showing led her side. Prestopnik is a sophomore from Little Falls, N.Y.

Cortland, with a respectable performance at the Mt. Holyoke Invite in Massachusetts in its portfolio as well, vied in the ECAC Championships at Bucknell University as the only Division III school. Dobbins, sophomore Tracy Collier of Williamson, N.Y., lone team senior Jennifer Dexter of Cortland, N.Y., Prestopnik and junior Melanie Sitts of Franklin, N.Y., did the scoring for the Red Dragons.

C-Club Conversation: Baseball All-American Craig Kerner

Junior outfielder Craig Kerner has earned All-America honors in each of his first two seasons with the Red Dragon baseball program. A third team selection as a freshman, he became the school's first-ever first team All-American last year. Craig started in the outfield last summer for the Orleans Cardinals out of the prestigious Cape Cod League. He is expected by many to be selected in the professional baseball draft this June. The C-Club Newsletter (CCN) spoke with Craig in late February.

CCN: You had the opportunity to play Division I baseball but instead chose to attend Cortland? What was it about Cortland that appealed to you?

Kerner: Basically, I was impressed with Cortland's strong reputation for baseball. More importantly, academics played a role in the decision. Baseball's only going to take me so far — there's only a small percentage of players who actually make it in professional baseball. I knew by coming here I would be in a quality athletic program as well as a quality academic program. The standards set in both areas led me to end up here.

In terms of baseball, if you're good enough, it doesn't matter where you are. If you can play, you can play. Luckily, I've gotten some opportunities here that I probably wouldn't have if I went to a bigger school.

CCN: One of those opportunities was a chance to play last summer as one of only a handful of Division III players in the Cape Cod League. Talk about your experiences in what's considered the nation's top collegiate summer league.

Kerner: It was an honor for me, being from a smaller school, to play in the league. There's a stereotype that guys from smaller schools can't play with the guys from the bigger schools. It was a confidence builder and a building block for me. I've had some doubts, as I'm sure some other people have, about how far I can go professionally and whether I can play at that level. To go out there and see that these guys are human just like the rest of us really helps.

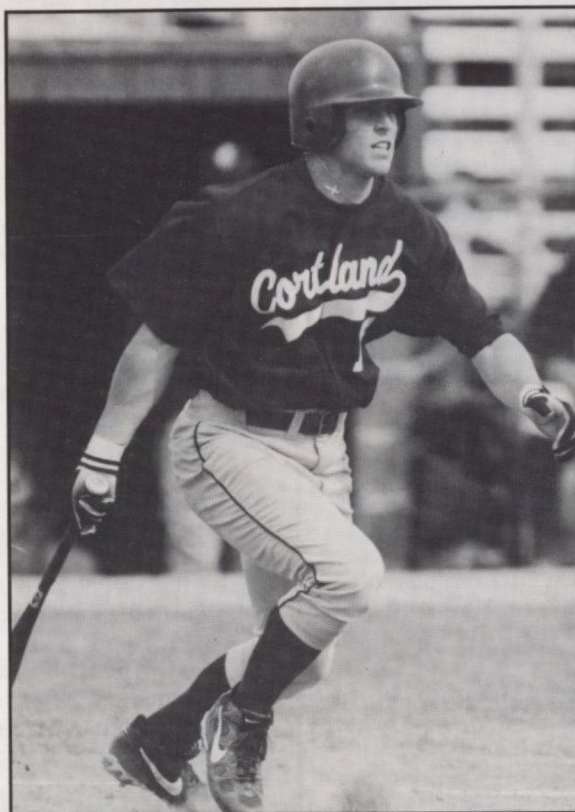


Photo by C.W. Pack Sports

CCN: What are your feelings about the potential of being drafted professionally this summer?

Kerner: It's definitely an exciting time in my life, as well for some other people who helped me get here. Obviously I haven't done this on my own. I've had great people behind me. But it's like anything else — you try not to look too far ahead. Right now I want the focal point on our team and this season itself, not what's going to happen after the season.

It's an honor to even be considered a pro prospect. You can't play for the scouts, though. If you work hard, those things will take care of themselves. What's good about this is that not only are the scouts looking at me, but they're seeing other guys on the team as well. That gives me a good feeling. Guys who came before me, like Brian Rose and Alex Steele (both Cortland pro draft picks), helped me out. Hopefully

my success will help future Cortland players be noticed.

CCN: This spring brings with it a new head coach at Cortland as former assistant coach Joe Brown takes over the program. How has the transition to the new coach been for you and for the team in general?

Kerner: Obviously, Coach (Steve) Owens did a great job here. Not only does his record here show that, but I think the players he coached will tell you that. I think we're very lucky to have Coach Brown take over. He's been around the program for seven years and he's familiar with the players and the school. He's a well-respected person.

I don't think we're getting the respect we deserve after the recent success this program has had (four World Series appearances since 1995). I think the players deserve more respect and Coach Brown deserves more respect. He's done a great job so far,

which makes us want to play not only for ourselves but for him.

I'm happy with the chemistry we have on this team between the players, both on and off the field, and between the coaches and the players. Coach Brown provides us with a good environment. You can have all the talent in the world, but if the team isn't cohesive, you're not going to go far.

CCN: Do you feel there is too much pressure on this year's team due to the high expectations that come with the program's past success?

Kerner: I think it's a motivational factor, if anything. We've been to the World Series in each of my first two seasons, but I'm sick of watching someone else go home with the trophy. It's difficult because you put in all this time and the farther you go on, the harder it is to accept a loss.

What's also tough is that everyone is gunning for us when we play. You have to show up every game. For some teams, their World Series is beating us. I don't think we have a problem dealing with that. We come to the park ready to play and we try to treat every opponent the same. We're not intimidated by anyone, nor do we take anybody lightly. You've got to have realistic goals, and I think it's a realistic goal that we can win the national title.

CCN: What level of importance do you place on post-season awards, such as your All-America honors?

Kerner: It's like anything else — you get out of it what you put into it. There are nights in the winter when you don't feel like coming down to the fieldhouse to work out or hitting the weight room, but you make yourself do it. In that aspect, I'm proud of myself to know that I've dedicated myself to baseball, and in the classroom as well.

I think the awards I've received reflect on our team as much as on me individually. If it wasn't for guys hitting behind me or in front of me, I wouldn't be the player I am. Sure, it's nice to receive individual accolades. It looks good on paper, but I wouldn't be where I am without the guys around me.

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